Introduction of Rajdhani Express from New Delhi to Visakhapatnam

3997. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce another Rajdhani Express or any other Express Train from New Delhi to Visakhapatnam or Chennai to Kolkata *via* Visakhapatnam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, it has been announced to extend 8407/8408 Nizamuddin-Bhubaneswar Hirakud Express up to Visakhapatnam in the Rail Budget 2005-06.

Allocation of Funds for Speedy Development of the Backward Areas of Orissa

3998. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to secure speedy development of the backward areas of Orissa, the State Government has requested for higher allocation of funds in the railway sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a request has also been made for expeditious completion of ongoing projects and for sanction of new ones to keep pace with the development in the region;

(d) if so, the action plan of the Centre to help the State in this regard; and

(e) the total length of rail line per 1000 Kms. in Orissa, *vis-a- vis* all other States in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of Orissa had requested